

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 CA-01 L-03 INR-10 SS-15
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 02738

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, ASEC, PINS, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET CONCERN OVER PENDING U.S. IMMUNITIES
LEGISLATION

REF: 77 MOSCOW 18508

1. SOKOLOV, ACTING CHIEF OF MFA USA DIVISION, CALLED IN CHARGE TODAY FOR DISCUSSION OF PENDING IMMUNITIES LEGISLATION. HE EXPRESSED DISMAY THAT NO REPLY HAD BEEN RECEIVED TO SOVIET DECEMBER 23 AIDE MEMOIRE (REFTEL) AND REITERATED PRINCIPAL POINTS IN IT. SOKOLOV STRESSED THAT IMMUNITIES ESTABLISHED BY 1966/67 EXCHANGE OF NOTES FOR SOVIET AND US DIPLOMATS, CONSULAR OFFICERS AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL WERE RECIPROCAL AND NOTED THAT SOVIETS ARE NOW PREPARING "RECIPROCAL MEASURES" TO AFFECT U.S. PERSONNEL IN USSR IF NEW LEGISLATION SHOULD IN FACT DEVIATE FROM ARRANGEMENTS AGREED IN 1966/67.

2. CHARGE INFORMED SOKOLOV THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM TO GO BEYOND INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED SOVIET EMBASSY BY DAS LUERS. HE ASSURED SOKOLOV THAT SOVIET VIEWS HAD BEEN CAREFULLY NOTED AND WERE BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND
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SPECULATED ON PERSONAL BASIS THAT FORMAL REPLY TO AIDE MEMOIRE MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE UNTIL NEW LEGISLATION BECOMES LAW AND ITS IMPACT ON CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS, IF ANY, CAN BE ASSESSED.

3. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. AN INDICATION OF CURRENT STATUS OF HR 7819 IN
CONGRESS AND LIKELY TIMETABLE FOR PASSAGE.

B. A READ-OUT FOR OUR INFORMATION ON WHETHER THE NEW
LEGISLATION WILL PERMIT CONTINUATION OF OUR PRESENT
RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH USSS "OR DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY."
AS DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES, THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
SUBJECT FOR THIS EMBASSY'S OPERATIONS, AND ANY LOSS TO
IMMUNITY BY ANY OF OUR PERSONNEL WOULD RAISE QUESTION
WHETHER THESE PERSONS COULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE USSR AT ALL.

C. INSTRUCTIONS FOR A NORMAL REPLY TO THE MINISTRY'S
AIDE MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 23 (REFTEL), IF A REPLY IS
POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME. MATLOCK

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